

## Message Text

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45

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 SCCT-01 PA-01

PRS-01 USIA-06 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 /069 W

----- 118332

R 261150Z APR 76

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3937

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

COMIDEASTFOR

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI

CNO WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0330

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, PINS ET

SUBJECT: EAL DC-3 DESTROYED IN MASSAWA

1. ON THE AFTERNOON OF APRIL 23, AN EAL DC-3, THE SECOND SECTION OF A SPECIAL EASTER FLIGHT, ARRIVED WITH PASSENGERS VISITING MASSAWA FOR THE HOLIDAY. AFTER THE PASSENGERS DIS-EMBARKEED, THE EMPTY AIRCRAFT TAXIED TO INLET END OF THE RUNWAY AND AS IT WAS TURNING FOR TAKE-OFF, THE TAIL WHEEL APPARENTLY RAN OVER A LAND MINE WHICH EXPLODED CAUSING EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TO THE TAIL SECTION. THE PILOT, CO-PILOT AND STEWARD JUMPED TO SAFETY AS FUEL FROM THE SEVERED FUEL LINES IGNITED CAUSING THE PLANE TO EXPLODE AND BURN.

2. IT REMAINS UNCLEAR WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR PLANTING THE MINE,  
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AS IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT IT WAS THERE AS PART OF THE PERIMETER

DEFENSE OF THE AIRFIELD. THE ITALIAN CONSUL WHO ARRIVED ON THE FIRST SECTION OF THE FLIGHT AND WAS AT THE AIRPORT AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT REPORTED THAT AFCT DID SWERVE WELL OF THE USUAL AREA OF THE RUNWAY. HIS DISCUSSION WITH SOURCES IN MASSAWA INDICATE THAT THE PILOT WAS UNFAMILIAR WITH THE MASSAWA AIRPORT, LENDING CREDENCE TO THE THEORY THAT MINE WAS PLACED THERE BY EPMG SECURITY FORCES. THERE WAS SOME APPREHENSION IN BOTH MASSAWA AND ASMARA THAT THIS INCIDENT WOULD INSPIRE RETALIATION FROM EPMG FORCES, BUT NO SUCH INCIDENTS HAVE BEEN REPORTED. SEVERAL EAL FLIGHTS HAVE LANDED IN MASSAWA SINCE THE INCIDENT WITHOUT ENCOUNTERING DIFFICULTIES.

3. FOR ADDIS: MAAG AVIATION SECTION MAY WISH TO OBTAIN FURTHER DETAILS ON THE INCIDENT FROM EPMG AVIATION AUTHORITIES IN ADDIS TO CLARIFY THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO FUTURE MAAG FLIGHTS PLANNED FOR MASSAWA.  
SHERRY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TERRORISM, AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS, EXPLOSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 APR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976ASMARA00330  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760157-1060  
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**Office:** ACTION EB  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <17 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <10 SEP 2004 by ElyME>  
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EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** EAL DC-3 DESTROYED IN MASSAWA  
**TAGS:** EAIR, PINS, ET  
**To:** STATE ADDIS ABABA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006